

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] ~~The sole figure~~ Figure 1 depicts a schematic circuit diagram of a data network. ~~and~~

Figures 2a and 2b are flow charts illustrating the operation of the method of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] One of the network subscribers, labeled, for example, with the reference numeral 8, is designed as the master network subscriber. At a specific event, for example, shut-down of the data network 1, the master network subscriber 8 initiates a test mode in one, in several or in all transmission link(s) 2, 3, 4, 5. For example, the master network subscriber 8 informs the transmitter of the network subscriber, labeled 9, and the receiver 7 of the network subscriber, labeled 10, that a test is to be conducted at this stage for the transmission link, labeled 4. During the test mode, as illustrated by the flow chart in Figure 2a, the transmitter 6 sends a test signal (step 11) over the transmission link 4 to the related receiver 7. In this respect the transmitting power of the transmitter 6 has been reduced, for example, by a predetermined amount of reduction. With the related receiver 7 it is checked (step 20) whether the test signal arrives properly. Preferably this procedure is repeated with incrementally larger

amounts of reduction until the test results are negative, thus until proper reception of the test signal can no longer be determined with the receiver 7. As soon as the test signal can no longer be properly received, the actual sensitivity limit (step 30) of the receiver 7 is reached or exceeded. Then the amount of reduction that is set last and that still exhibits positive test results (step 40), thus proper reception of the test signal, is correlated with the actual level reserve (step 50) in the direction of the sensitivity limit. The results of this test procedure are reported to the master network subscriber 8.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] As an alternative, the test procedure can also be carried out, as shown in Figure 2b, in such a manner that, after the initial test signal (step 100) is sent, the transmitting power of the transmitter 6 is increased incrementally (step 250) by a predetermined amount of increase. As soon as proper transmission of the signal (step 200) is no longer possible, the test results are also negative here. Proper transmission of the signal is no longer possible, when the overload limit (step 300) of the receiver 7 is reached or exceeded. In this procedure (step 400) the level reserve in the direction of the overload limit (step 500) is found.